Volume 1
Chapter 6

SFX WHOOOSH
BUT WHEN I HEARD THE OLD MAN'S WORDS.
I TOOK OFF MY TUNIC AS I RAN OUTSIDE INTO THE FALLING SNOW AND STARTED DOING PUSH-UPS LIKE A MAD MAN I KNEW DOING PUSH-UPS WASN'T GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING
I COULDN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING ANY LONGER

HUFF
HUFF
SO MANY THOUGHTS WERE GOING THROUGH MY HEAD
SO WHAT IF IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!? SO WHAT IF MY ENEMIES ARE TOUGH!?
AS LONG AS I CAN FEEL THIS MORTIFIED, IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET!!
SO WHAT IF I'M NOT A HERO!? SO WHAT IF I'M NOT EXACTLY HERO MATERIAL!?
SO, WHAT IF I'M ALREADY 30 YEARS OLD!? SO WHAT IF I USED TO BE A NEET ONLY MONTHS AGO!?
I'M NOT COMPLETELY USELESS YET! I CAN STILL PICK MYSELF UP AND BECOME SOMEONE!

ENOUGH WITH ALL THE DUMB EXCUSES I CAME UP WITH FOR MYSELF!!
IF I'M GOING TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR MY SHORT-COMINGS ...
I SHOULD DO IT AFTER I'VE MAXED OUT MY LEVEL!!
MY RECORD HAD BEEN 50 PUSH-UPS IN A ROW, BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD PASSED THE 100 MARK AND JUST KEPT GOING
I DIDN'T EVEN STOP WHEN MY ARMS GOT CRAMPS
I KEPT DOING PUSH-UPS WHILE SCREAMING MY LUNGS OUT

I FINALLY STOPPED AFTER THE 121ST PUSH-UP
HUFF...
HUFF...
I HAVE TO ADMIT IT'S A PRETTY INEFFICIENT WAY OF TRAINING YOUR ARM MUSCLES
MY ARMS WERE THROBBING WITH PAIN
NOT TO MENTION THAT IT LEFT MY MUSCLES BURNING AND HURTING ALL OVER
OW OWW...
AND YET, I WAS MORE THAN SATISFIED

I JUST HAVE TO GIVE IT A SHOT...
SO I CAN DO IT IF I WANT TO.
WHEN WAS IT, I WONDER... WHEN DID I DECIDE FOR MYSELF THAT I'D ALREADY REACHED MY LIMIT. NEVER TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP AGAIN...?
SINCE WHEN DID I START THINKING THAT IT'S MEANINGLESS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO WORK HARD FOR SOMETHING...?
NOT ONLY BECAUSE DOING PUSH-UPS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER WITH JUST A PAIR OF PANTS ON MUST HAVE BEEN THE DUMBEST IDEA EVER...
BUT ALSO SINCE I'D ENJOYED IT A LOT
I LET OUT A LAUGH
HEH...

GOOD GRIEF...
SFX: FIRE
SFX: BLUB BLUB
WHY IN GOD'S NAME DID YOU GO OUT THERE LOOKING LIKE THAT!?
ONCE I RETURNED TO THE HUT, THE OLD MAN JUST LAUGHED AT ME AND SAID...
...
ALL THE WHILE STARTING A FIRE IN THE STOVE TO HELP ME GET WARMED UP
SFX: CLACK CLUNK
NOW, SHOW ME YOUR ARMS

SFX. STROKE STROKE
HMM
SFX: STEAM
YOUR MUSCLES HAVE BECOME INFLAMED
YOU'LL HAVE TO REST YOUR ARMS FOR A WHILE
SFX. SIP SIP SIP SIP
SO GOOD ...
I TOOK A SIP OF THE SOUP
THE OLD MAN THEN PREPARED A BOWL OF HOT SOUP FOR ME BEFORE GOING BACK TO BED
I SWEAR, IT WAS THE MOST DELICIOUS SOUP THAT I'D EVER TASTED IN MY ENTIRE LIFE
SFX. SHAKE SHAKE

I SHOULD SHARPEN ALL THE WEAPONS AND POLISH THE ARMOR TOO
I'LL TIDY UP THE GRAVES TOMOR-ROW...
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO WASTE TIME A BIT LONGER...
BEFORE I CAN START CATCHING UP ON ALL THE TIME I HAVE WASTED

AND I'VE SPENT IT WORKING OUT DAY AFTER DAY
ONE MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE THEN
HMM
HUFF...
HUFF...
IN ADDITION TO THE PUSH-UPS, I'VE BEEN DOING SIT-UPS, SQUATS, EXERCISES FOR THE BACK, AND RUNNING 10 KM EVERYDAY
ONCE DONE WITH THAT, I'D RECEIVE TRAINING FROM THE OLD MAN
OLD MAN, YOUR GUIDANCE PLEASE

OH, AND ONE MORE THING... I'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO MY APPEARANCE ...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TODAY?
RIGHT
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU TODAY...
SFX: SIGH
LOOK OVER THERE ...
...?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
I'M ONLY GOING TO SHOW IT ONCE, SO WATCH CAREFULLY
FUSO
FUSO
WHAT'S HE PLANNING TO DO WITH A LOG ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS HIS BODY...?

SFX: WHAM
SFX: SST
WHOA

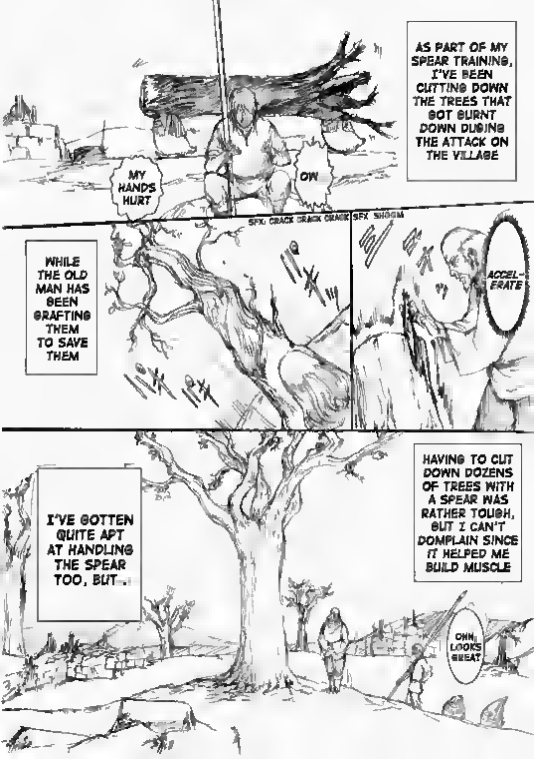
SFX: CRASH
!!?
THINK OF THE SPEAR AS ANOTHER PART OF YOUR BODY AND
FEEL THE BREATH OF YOUR TARGET AS YOU STRIKE STRAIGHT
IF YOU DO IT RIGHT, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PIERCE ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD
THOUGH YOU'RE NOT YET READY TO LEARN IT BY A LONG SHOT
FUSA!
FUSO!
YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER IT

WELL THEN, LET'S START WITH THE DAILY KATA TRAINING
S-SURE
HE'S NO ORDINARY OLD MAN, IS HE...?
WHILE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PUT IT ALL INTO PRACTICE BY FIGHTING MONSTERS INSIDE THE CAVE
HE'S BEEN TEACHING ME THE BASICS OF COMBAT, MARTIAL ARTS AND THE ART OF SPEAR FIGHTING
AS IF THE OLD MAN WASN'T IMPRESSIVE ALREADY, HE EVEN KNOWS SOME MAGIC SPELLS...

SFX: PAW
HEAL!!
PLEASE HEAL THE WOUNDS ON THIS BODY
SFX: HAIR RUB
FUGA!
FUGO
IT'S HEAL-ED!!
SFX: SIZZLE
SFX: MANUAL
FUGO!
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE OLD MAN...
OHH! I DID IT!! THIS IS GREAT!!
I'VE LEARNED THE HEAL SPELL FROM HIM
LET ME EXPLAIN ..
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T ACHIEVE WITH HARD WORK ALONE
...
FOO!
BLAZE
BLAZE
BLAZE

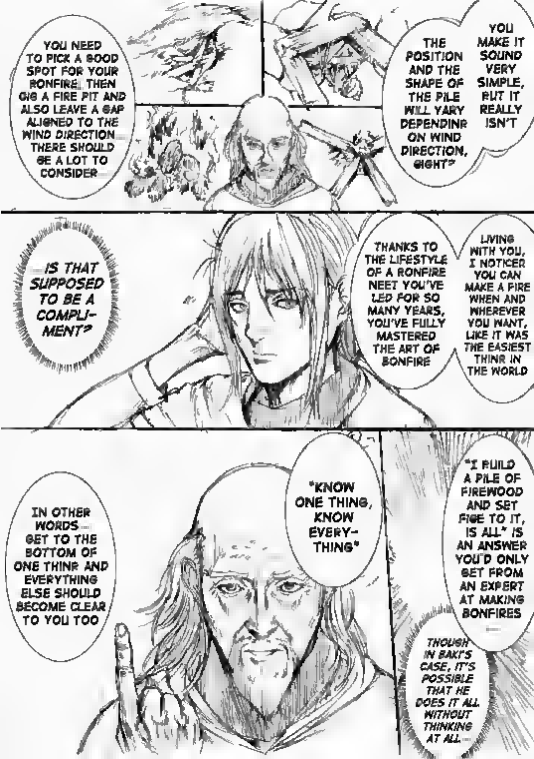
SUCKS TO BE BORN DUMB...
IF I CAN ONLY CAST HEAL ONCE, I'M BETTER OFF USING MEDICAL HERBS INSTEAD
IT TURNS OUT THAT WITH MY CURRENT WISDOM STAT, I'M COMPLETELY SPENT AFTER CASTING HEAL ONCE
THEY'RE BUGO & ROGO (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)
GRWL
OH YEAH, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE THESE TWO WHACKAMOLES THAT KEEP LOITERING ARDUND ME...
LOOKS LIKE YOU EVEN GOT MONSTERS FEELING SORRY FOR YOU...
HO HO HO
SFX THUD!
THEY GOT ATTACHED TO ME FOR SOME REASON AFTER DRAGGING MY CORPSE OUT OF THE CAVE A COUPLE OF TIMES
HEAVY

MAYBE YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MONSTER TAMER..?
BUT HE CAN SAY SOME PRETTY NICE THINGS TOO...
THE OLD MAN CAN SAY SOME PRETTY HARSH THINGS..
BUT WHO KNOWS...
SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH
SFX: CLANG CLUNK
WELL... I DON'T SEE WHY NOT
FUSO
BECOMING A MONSTER TAMER AND KEEPING MONSTERS LIKE CUTE PETS, HUH?
SFX: CRACK
HAH!!
WHOA!!
SFX: CRACK


AS PART OF MY SPEAR TRAINING, I'VE BEEN CUTTING DOWN THE TREES THAT GOT BURNT DOWN DURING THE ATTACK ON THE VILLAGE
MY HANDS HURT
OW
WHILE THE OLD MAN HAS BEEN GRAFTING THEM TO SAVE THEM
SFX: CRACK CRACK CRACK
SFX: SHOOM
ACCEL-ERATE
I'VE GOTTEN QUITE APT AT HANDLING THE SPEAR TOO, BUT...
HAVING TO CUT DOWN DOZENS OF TREES WITH A SPEAR WAS RATHER TOUGH, BUT I CAN'T COMPLAIN SINCE IT HELPED ME BUILD MUSCLE
OHH, LOOKS GREAT

HUFF
...
HUFF
...
I STILL CAN'T SEEM TO GET THE HANG OF PIERCING A LOG
PLEASE TELL ME IF THERE'S A TRICK TO IT.
WELL, THAT TECHNIQUE MAY STILL BE A BIT TOO ADVANCED FOR YOU...
CHEH
THERE ARE NO TRICKS TO MASTERING A TECHNIQUE
I CAN'T DO THAT. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT BY YOURSELF
OLD MAN ...
YOU'RE A NASTY OLD MAN, Y'KNOW THAT...?
SO HERE'S A HINT
...BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU MIGHT RUN AWAY AGAIN IF I'M TOO STRICT WITH YOU

WHILE "FEEL THE BREATH OF YOUR TARGET", IS ABOUT THE TIMING OF YOUR ATTACK
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
"THINK OF THE SPEAR AS ANOTHER PART OF YOUR BODY" TELLS YOU HOW TO CONTROL YOUR POWER
...
???
HMM...
HUH?
WHEN YOU START A BONFIRE, WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER?
WHAT'S THERE TO CONSIDER?
I BUILD A PILE OF FIREWOOD AND SET FIRE TO IT, IS ALL.


YOU NEED TO PICK A GOOD SPOT FOR YOUR BONFIRE. THEN DIG A FIRE PIT AND ALSO LEAVE A GAP ALIGNED TO THE WIND DIRECTION THERE SHOULD BE A LOT TO CONSIDER
THE POSITION AND THE SHAPE OF THE PILE WILL VARY DEPENDING ON WIND DIRECTION, RIGHT?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND VERY SIMPLE, BUT IT REALLY ISN'T
—IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLI-MENT?
THANKS TO THE LIFESTYLE OF A BONFIRE NEET YOU'VE LED FOR SO MANY YEARS, YOU'VE FULLY MASTERED THE ART OF BONFIRE
LIVING WITH YOU, I NOTICED YOU CAN MAKE A FIRE WHEN AND WHEREVER YOU WANT, LIKE IT WAS THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD
IN OTHER WORDS— GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ONE THING AND EVERYTHING ELSE SHOULD BECOME CLEAR TO YOU TOO
"KNOW ONE THING, KNOW EVERY-THING"
"I BUILD A PILE OF FIREWOOD AND SET FIRE TO IT, IS ALL" IS AN ANSWER YOU'D ONLY GET FROM AN EXPERT AT MAKING BONFIRES
THOUGH IN BAKI'S CASE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE DOES IT ALL WITHOUT THINKING AT ALL

...
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, TRY APPLYING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED FROM MAKING BONFIRES TO WIELDING A SPEAR
UHH I DON'T GET IT
BAK!
LEVEL: 16
CLASS: FORMER NEET
HP: 98
MP: 9
STRENGTH: 58
AGILITY: 31
WISDOM: 12
LUCK: 72
NOTE: I ONLY HAVE ENOUGH MP TO CAST HEAL ONCE
DAMN OLD MAN— HE SHOULD KNOW THAT MY WISDOM STAT IS UNUSUALLY LOW—
YEAH, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO RAISE MY LEVEL TO 16. BUT JUST AS YOU WOULD EXPECT OF A CHARACTER WITH THE CLASS "FORMER NEET", MY STATS ARE PLAIN TERRIBLE

Appendix:

Chorocters in chopter 6:

Boki

Boat man

Monsters in chopter 6:

Whackamole
(Hammerhood)

Locotions in chopter 6:

- Santa Rosa (Whealbrook)

Spells in chopter 6:

- Heal
- Blaze (Frizz)
- Accelerate